

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0976

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: GOU VIGOROUSLY PROTESTS HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT TO CONGRESS

REF: STATE 053199 (NOTAL)

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA TODAY (MARCH 10)
I RAISED THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST BY GIVING HIM
COPIES IN SPANISH OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER BEFORE THE HUMPHREY COMMITTEE. I RECOMMENDED
HIS ATTENTIVE READING OF THIS WHICH I SAID CONSTITUTED FOR ME A
CAREFUL STATEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM AND THE EFFORTS IT IS
MAKING TO PURSUE THIS POLICY IN A MANNER BEST CALCULATED TO
BE EFFECTIVE AND EVEN-HANDED.

2. I THEN TOLD THE MINISTER ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS
PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO LAW WHICH ARE BEING GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS
WHICH IS EXPECTED VERY SOON TO MAKE THEM PUBLIC. I SAID I
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ASSUMED HE HAD HEARD OF THIS THROUGH AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS
BUT THAT I WAS MAKING AVAILABLE TO HIM THE OFFICIAL TEXT IN
ENGLISH OF THE REPORT ON URUGUAY AS IT IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE
CONGRESS. I SAID I THOUGHT HE WOULD FIND THIS TO BE A CAREFULLY
PHRASED DOCUMENT, JUDICIOUS IN TONE AND FACTUAL. I POINTED OUT THAT
WHEREAS THE FIRST THREE ARTICLES COMPRISE THE DEPARTMENT'S
OWN APPRAISAL, ARTICLE 4, RESPONDING TO LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT,

SUMMARIZES REPORTS OF OTHER REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY.

3. IN REPLY, THE MINISTER TOLD ME THAT AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS HAD PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF THE DOCUMENT YESTERDAY AND LATER READ THE TEXT OVER THE TELEPHONE. THE GOU, HE SAID, IS SO CONCERNED WITH THIS REPORT, WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE ANOTHER UNACCEPTABLE INTERVENTION IN URUGUAY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THAT IT HAD PREPARED A NOTE IN REACTION WHICH HE THEN GAVE ME. THE NOTE IS BEING TRANSLATED FOR SEPARATE TRANSMISSION. PRINCIPLE POINTS WHICH IT MAKES, HOWEVER, ARE:

A) THE VERY EXISTENCE OF SUCH A DOCUMENT IS JURIDICALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE EXISTING PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONSTITUTES A CLEARLY UNFRIENDLY GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MUTUAL AND RECIPROCAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH HAPPILY HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

B) SINCE URUGUAY HAD ALREADY STATED BY NOTE ON FEBRUARY 28 THAT IT WAS WITHDRAWING ANY REQUESTS FOR AID EXCEPT FOR THOSE PROGRAMS ALREADY AGREED UPON AND IN PROCESS IT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD PROVIDE SUCH A REPORT WHICH IS REQUIRED ONLY IN RELATION TO REQUESTS FOR AID.

C) JUDGEMENTS ON MATTERS EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE INTERNAL COMPETENCE OF OTHER STATES, SUCH AS ARE CONTAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT, CONSTITUTE A CLEAR INTERVENTION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY AND A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF THE JURIDICAL EQUALITY OF STATES WHICH THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT REJECTS IN THE MOST ENERGETIC MANNER. THE FACT THAT THE

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REPORT RESPONDED TO A REQUIREMENT OF LAW IS IMMATERIAL.

D) PUBLICATION OF SUCH A REPORT WOULD NOT ONLY CONFIRM VIOLATIONS OF THE MENTIONED PRINCIPLES BUT THE BROADCASTING OF ITS CONTENT, WHICH BASICALLY REFLECTS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE REAL SITUATION IN URUGUAY, AND WHICH ONLY FAVORS SUBVERSION, CONSTITUTES IN ITSELF A CLEARLY UNFRIENDLY ACT AGAINST URUGUAY. THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY ALSO EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND CONCERN THAT THE PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ARE CAUSING DETERIORATION IN THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL INSTRUMENTS, THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY ENERGETICALLY REJECTS THE REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES, CONSIDERING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE TRADITIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD PUBLISH IT.

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